ANOTHER VISITATION, GABRIEL

This is how I will remember you
who brought a fire back into the sky.

Within that settled, slumbering haze,
time's peaceful patterning of days,
I kept, I thought, a safe place in the mist;

till you careered into my life
reeling from your sorrows:
enamoured of heaven and earth
and your all-too-human prayers
to grapple it all to you for ever;

accusing God and creation,
an angry lover robbed of argument,
you called up the old voices,
invoking anew the poetry and the pain
of our mortalities

to wrench my stilled nerves,
overturn my calm,
and rend the veil of my mind
to a vision of your striving,
your intensities:

how your compulsions command
my awakening;
these passionate petitions
like sunlight piercing rain
transfuse the covenantal hues
to convince me

my days gather splendour
over the brightening horizon

where you stand, spirit raised,
like an angel.